

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on March 18, 2008. Claim 1 has been amended, and claims 1-5 remain pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Examiner has maintained his prior rejections of claims 1-5 as being unpatentable over Pepicelli et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,257,268 in view of Smith, U.S. Patent No. 6,117,394. While Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to more sharply define the claimed invention over the prior art of record and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

In particular, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite that the mounting fixture includes cooperating locking structure associated with the stabilizing member and the nose to releasably lock the stabilizing member at the open distal end of the nose. Support for this feature is described at Page 4, lines 10-14 of Applicants' disclosure, for example, and is shown in the figures according to one exemplary embodiment. For example, in one embodiment, the stabilizing member (30) is provided with ears (36) that are configured and dimensioned for removably snap-fit insertion into the opening (14) in the distal end (12b) of nozzle (12) (see Figs. 3 and 4).

In contrast, the pipette tip (Tp) of Smith, which Examiner asserts is analogous to Applicants' claimed stabilizing member, is received on the pipetter barrel (P) in a "wedge type fit" (see Col. 1, lines 47-50). Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that, while the pipette tip (Tp) of Smith cannot properly be asserted to comprise a stabilizing member as claimed by Applicants for the reasons fully set forth in Applicants' previous responses which are incorporated herein by reference, Smith is completely silent with respect to cooperating locking structure for releasably locking the pipette tip (Tp) at the open distal end of the pipetter barrel (P) as now claimed by Applicants. Rather, the pipetter of Smith relies on frictional engagement of the pipette tip (Tp) with the pipetter barrel (P). Consequently, Applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Moreover, as claims 2-5 depend from allowable independent claim 1, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not fairly taught or suggested by the prior art of record, Applicants submit that these claims are allowable as well.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Applicants do not believe that this response requires that any fees be submitted, however, if any fees are deemed necessary, these may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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